

By: Brown of Brazos

H.R. No. 83

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas A&M University lost a gifted leader with the
2 passing of Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, on January 7, 2005; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Vandiver served with distinction as the 19th
4 president of Texas A&M University from 1981 to 1988, and under his
5 able guidance, the institution set its sights on becoming a
6 world-class university, hiring its first Nobel Laureate and
7 Pulitzer Prize winners, creating a Faculty Senate, and surpassing
8 the \$100 million mark in budgeted research and the \$1 billion mark
9 in endowment; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition to his exceptional tenure with Texas
11 A&M, Dr. Vandiver skillfully led as interim president of the
12 American University in Cairo, president of North Texas State
13 University, provost of Rice University, and acting president of
14 Rice University; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Vandiver dedicated his intellect and energy to
16 his chosen field, serving as historian of the U.S. Civil Service;
17 Air Force historian in Montgomery, Alabama; instructor and
18 assistant professor at Washington University; assistant,
19 associate, and Harrison Master, Jr., professor of history at Rice
20 University; Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford
21 University; visiting professor of military history at West Point;
22 and as holder of the John and Sara H. Lindsey Chair in Humanities
23 and Distinguished University President of Texas A&M University from
24 1988 until his passing; and

1 WHEREAS, The author of 20 historical books, this accomplished
2 gentleman wrote the definitive biographies *Mighty Stonewall* and
3 *Black Jack: The Life and Times of John J. Pershing*, which was a
4 finalist for the National Book Awards in 1978; his other works
5 include *Ploughshares into Swords: Josiah Gorgas and Confederate*
6 *Ordnance*, *Rebel Brass: The Confederate Command System*, *Jubal's*
7 *Raid: General Early's Famous Attack on Washington in 1864*, *Their*
8 *Tattered Flags: The Epic of the Confederacy*, *Blood Brothers: A*
9 *Short History of the Civil War*, *Shadows of Vietnam: Lyndon*
10 *Johnson's War*, and numerous articles and essays on military
11 history; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Vandiver devoted his life to the pursuit of
13 knowledge through scholarly endeavor, encouraging students of all
14 ages, and serving on countless boards and committees, including the
15 Department of the Army, Office of the Chief of Military History,
16 Advisory Council; National Council of the Humanities; the Rhodes
17 Scholarship Selection Committee for Texas; the Association of
18 American Colleges, Educational Advisory Committee, U.S. Command
19 and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; the Committee
20 on Armed Services, U.S. Senate, Outside Expert for Defense
21 Reorganization Project; Board of Visitors, U.S. Air Force Air
22 University; the New York Academy of Sciences; the Secretary of
23 Defense's Total Force Policy Study Group; the Secretary of the Air
24 Force's History Advisory Committee; and the National Historical
25 Publications and Records Commission; and

26 WHEREAS, Throughout his time on this earth, Frank Vandiver
27 was widely respected as a man of wisdom and integrity, who gave

1 unstintingly of his energies and talents in whatever mission he
2 undertook; his purposeful life was rich in family, friends, and
3 accomplishments, and although he will be greatly missed by all who
4 knew him, his spirit will live on in the hearts of the many people
5 whose lives he touched; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
7 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Dr. Frank E.
8 Vandiver and extend deepest sympathy to his wife, Renee; to his
9 children, Nita Jackson, Nancy Wahl, and Frank A. Vandiver; and to
10 all those who mourn the passing of this esteemed Texan; and, be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
14 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of
15 Dr. Frank E. Vandiver.